

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Current status of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers

Applicable Statute(s) or Regulation(s):

KRS 156.4975; KRS 156.4977

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The purpose of this review item is to provide the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) with an overview of the implementation and integration of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) within Kentucky's public schools. Marla Montell, Jane Seltsam and Michael Denney from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will discuss the current status of the work of the FRYSCs. Joan Howard is the Kentucky Department of Education's liaison with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services on FRYSCs.

The Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Services Centers initiative was established with the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) of 1990, as amended. The mission of these school based Centers is to enhance students' abilities to succeed in school by developing and sustaining partnerships that promote: early learning and successful transition into school, academic achievement and well-being and graduation and transition into adult life. Each Center has a unique blend of program components depending on location, available resources, local need and community input. The goal of the FRYSCs is to broker services to address the needs of all children and their families who reside in the community or neighborhood served by the school in which the center is located.

Family Resource Centers serve children through twelve years of age. The core components are:

1. *Preschool child care for children two and three years of age;*
2. *After school child day care;*
3. *Families in training;*
4. *Family literacy;*
5. *Support and training for child day care providers; and,*
6. *Health services or referrals to health services.*

Youth Services Centers serve children over twelve years of age. The core components are:

1. *Referrals to health and social services;*
2. *Employment counseling, training and placement;*
3. *Summer and part time job development;*
4. *Drug and alcohol abuse counseling; and,*
5. *Family crisis and mental health counseling.*

Schools with at least 20% of the student population eligible for free and reduced school meals are eligible, based on available funding, to complete proposals for new programs. Continuation funding currently ranges from \$33,660 to \$91,800. Kentucky has 806 FRYSCs, serving 1,165 schools encompassing approximately 99% of Kentucky's eligible schools. This represents the largest school-based family support network in the nation. An additional appropriation by the Kentucky General Assembly for FY08 will allow for even greater expansion of the program.

The current total student population in schools served by centers is 593,518, with approximately 47% eligible for free school meals. There are 412 Family Resource Centers, 258 Youth Services Centers, and 136 combined Family Resource and Youth Services Centers. The total center allocation awarded in FY07 is \$52,941,899. Currently FRYSCs are located in 171 of Kentucky's 175 school districts. Centers may serve more than one school depending upon the original application submitted by the local district.

Each local center is required to have an advisory council comprised of parents/guardians, community partners and school staff. In centers serving middle and high schools, students also serve on the advisory councils. These councils are charged with assisting center staff in the conducting of a comprehensive needs assessment to serve as a basis for their two year continuation application. This application must specify the level of need regarding mandated core components and any optional components that may be identified through the needs assessment process. These action components reflect the scope of work that the centers will address in an effort to confront the issues identified in the needs assessment process. Consequently, each FRYSC is a unique entity working in concert with families, school and the community to address needs germane to the local schools served. Councils are also charged to work with center staff in a periodic review of center budgets, emerging issues, and greater engagement with students, families, and the community.

Centers are encouraged to build relationships with parents and students in an effort to develop greater engagement in the learning process. Centers are to be warm and welcoming havens in which students and their families are able to confidentially speak with staff about issues that have a negative impact on the educational experience. Utilizing nationally recognized principles of family support, centers are able to work with students and their families in an effort to mediate concerns and issues that hinder the educational process as a whole.

As a result, FRYSCs have achieved a remarkable degree of success in redefining how local service providers interact with schools in their respective communities.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency

The removal of nonacademic barriers to learning is essential for greater student achievement and engagement in the learning process.

Contact Person:

Jane Seltsam, Director
Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
502-564-4986
jane.seltsam@ky.gov

Interim Commissioner of Education

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